

President's request but the Pentagon's. Some programs, like Block 30 of the Global Hawk, the Pentagon doesn't want at all. Funding for East Coast missile defense dumps money into systems that don't work against a remote, unlikely threat. Lastly, there are not sufficient safeguards in place to ensure that we are not only funding the right programs, but receiving a fair price for them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 18, 2012, during a rapid succession of two-minute votes, I was unable to cast my vote for rollcall Number 288.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the Rehberg Amendment No. 59 to H.R. 4310, which passed with a bipartisan vote of 238-162. Our nuclear deterrent is a vital part of our continued military strength and global presence.

Our nuclear deterrent through our nuclear triad continues to keep the peace, and we must ensure that any reductions that may occur to our nuclear triad are certified by the Secretary of Defense to be needed and in compliance. Congress must exercise its oversight to ensure that our national security is not placed at risk by political ideologies.

The Rehberg Amendment ensures that Congress does have that oversight while still complying with the international agreements we have made as a country. We also need to show Russia that we take their disingenuousness about the number of working missiles and platforms very seriously.

Again, had I not been delayed, I would have voted in support of Rehberg Amendment No. 59 to H.R. 4310.

STUDENT ESSAYS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight, into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Siri Soth is a junior at Austin High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

It is important for the government to play an active role in our lives but to a certain extent. I think it is an important duty of our government to provide us with a strong National Defense and protect our individual

rights and freedoms. Our government has an obligation to protect us from powers that we, as a nation, would not be able to adequately protect ourselves from. Our government's number one priority should be to protect its nation from any harm whatsoever. By providing this great nation with the strongest defense possible, our government is instilling faith and pride in the people of this country. It is also the government's duty to protect our rights. Our individual rights are very important to our freedom and if those rights are protected and respected, our nation will be happy. Our rights are given to us at birth, they are not granted by the state and they are not in anyone's control. Our government is there to ensure our rights and make sure that no one can take said rights away from an individual. Life and liberty are magnificent gifts that certainly cannot come from any government official, but can be protected by one. Protecting our rights is necessary for our government to do in order for our nation to feel safe and secure and to know that our rights cannot be taken away by anyone. In my opinion, the government is here to hold people accountable for their actions by making and administering laws for the good and safety of our nation. I also believe it is the role of the government to enforce the separation of church and state. In order to protect our rights, such as freedom of religion, I think it is a must to ensure that church is not associated with government. Because of the mass amount of diversity in our country and the numerous religion and religious values present, intertwining church and state is limiting people's first amendment. People of this nation should never feel uncomfortable about an action of the government because of a religious bias. So in short, our government definitely needs to play an active role in our lives, but under certain circumstances. The government needs to ensure safety in the people of this nation by protecting us from foreign powers and ensuring us with faith in them to respect our rights and keep us secure.

Stephanie Lin is a junior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country. Stephanie chose the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam War has constantly been referred to as "The War We Couldn't Win". From an objective perspective, gazing at the maps of offensives, counterstrikes, and captures, it may seem the case. However, we must also examine the effects within our own domestic issues. Of course, the economic perspective forces us to acknowledge the losses incurred from the soldiers sent . . . and the innocents killed.

More than forty years ago, on the fourth of May, the city of Kent dawned upon a massacre of horrors. The Ohio National Guard, people meant to protect, fired over sixty-seven rounds of bullets in thirteen seconds into a crowd of Kent State University students protesting against Nixon's invasion of Cambodia, killing four students and wounding nine others. Comparatively, the numbers seem small, insignificant even. However, what was killed was not only human lives, but an ideal. The public trusted the government to protect their freedom of expression, and their own people. The Kent State Massacre violated that trust for the public, desecrating and shattering the idealized vision of the youth of America.

Afterwards, the response from the public was astounding. Kent State photojournalism student John Filo captured a fourteen-year old runaway, Mary Ann Vecchio, screaming over the body of the dead student, Jeffrey

Miller, who had been brutally shot in the mouth. The photograph earned a Pulitzer.

The public seemed to interpret the photograph as a symbol of the broken faith, cupped in the hands of America's future generation, as they desperately scrambled for some humanity. The event may have seemed small in casualties, but it, in the end, was a ripple, causing a tremendous effect on the public's opinion over the role of government in the Vietnam War.

The shootings represented that America was not only fighting a war in Vietnam, but a war with itself. It caused people to question the roles and responsibilities of the government. The impact it has left on the people of America can be seen with the public's notions about the government now. The protests against big business seem to be lumped in with protests against how the government represses or does not pay attention to the people.

I may not fully understand the impact brought to the public from all these different events more than fifty years ago, but I do understand what it is like to be frustrated when your voice is not only unheard, but also gunned down. This is why I feel the Kent State Shootings are so significant to me. It showed how the people felt violated by the government, yet also taught us authority that abuses control, or senseless violence against protesters, will result in repercussions. We all have the power of voice. If our whispers are swiftly cut, we will swiftly scream for justice.

Today's government understands the role of expression and how wrong it is to rashly repress it. Perhaps Vietnam was The War We Couldn't Win, but we had victories in voice.

Stephanie Tsai is a senior at Foster High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country. Stephanie chose *Apollo 11's* Moon landing.

Below his feet, he felt the fine-grained dust that coated the surface of the moon. Stepping forward, Neil Armstrong uttered some of the most famous words in human history: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." In 1969, the *Apollo 11* moon landing brought American exploration and technological capability to new heights, both figuratively and literally. This major achievement was a testimony to our nation's unwavering perseverance in the face of adversity.

For years, humans dreamt of walking on the moon, yet such a task seemed impossible. To many, a moon landing was little more than a dream. But America is and has always been a nation of dreamers. With President Kennedy's challenge to "[land] a man on the moon and [return] him back safely" before the end of the decade, a goal which he correctly described as "important for the long-range exploration of space," brought America closer to the realization of a centuries-long ambition. In all human history, there had never been an accomplishment quite like this. The moon landing was the first time human beings had set foot outside the planet earth, and it paved the way for future space exploration.

Americans who witnessed the moon landing undoubtedly rank it among their most unforgettable memories. One of the proudest moments in American history, the moon landing spoke to the tenacity of the American people. It reminded people around the world of America's immense capabilities and the power of American resolve. The moon landing was the product of the cooperation of determined Americans to accomplish the impossible. It was a triumph for technological innovation and the foundation for

countless scientific advancements. To millions, it brought hope for a future in space exploration, for landing a man on the moon proved that there are no limits on the reaches of human imagination. Indeed, Armstrong spoke prophetically about this "giant leap for mankind." The moon landing forever changed our outlook on the world and the possibilities it holds.

The members of the *Apollo 11* mission were pioneers, brave people who dared to push the frontiers of human knowledge and existence. The same adventurous spirit that resulted in the discovery of America, a new world, over five hundred years ago carried American explorers to the moon. In history, Americans have always taken the initiative to boldly navigate the unknown. Today, we look back at the moon landing and marvel at where our dreams were able to take us. In five hundred years, who knows what more we will have accomplished? The possibilities are endless.

So, what does the moon landing mean for America now? Recently, *Time* magazine reported that over six thousand applications for the next astronaut class were submitted, "the most since 1978." Clearly, American interest in space exploration is as enthusiastic as ever. In today's age of rapid technological improvements, America's continued leadership in space is certainly possible. Together, let's look forward to a future of turning dreams into realities.

Madison Weaver is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government is defined as the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states. In other words, the government is the ultimate source of authority in our country. However, I believe that this power should be used with restraint. I also believe that government should focus on protecting the people, instead of controlling the people.

Helping secure jobs and keeping companies in business is something the U.S. government has been promoting heavily in the past few years. With the passing of the 'bail-out' bill, numerous corporations, that would have otherwise failed, were saved by the government's decision to give them enough money in order to stay afloat. Consequently, millions of people were able to keep their jobs. But what does that say about our government? Is it humanitarian that our government reacts in order to save those companies and jobs? No, in fact this shows that our government is pushing forth its own agenda of what will be produced in America. The fine line between government protecting and controlling is the difference in outcome. Protecting, will ultimately promote a healthier economy; while controlling, will produce quicker results, yet negative, long-term effects. For instance, by giving money to banks that made numerous bad loans, was essentially saying that it was 'ok' to make bad business decisions. Also, by giving money to the auto industry, was essentially saying that it was 'ok' to make products that people didn't want. Yes, the government was able to save many businesses, and countless jobs; but do we want failed businesses to operate in America? The answer is, 'no'!

Instead of looking at every business failure as a sign of weakness of the government, we need to see to the failures and embrace them too. Without the fear of failure, there is no drive for success. Therefore, we need to have failures, recessions, and yes, even job losses in order to drive people to succeed and make our country better. I believe that the government has done us more harm than good in attempting to control the recession. By step-

ping back and letting the business cycle run its course, only then can government truly guide our country to a more productive America.

MOTORCYCLES AND SCOOTERS AS TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to motorcycles and scooters as transportation options for many Americans.

On May 13, President Obama proclaimed May 15th through May 21st as National Transportation Week. In the proclamation the President recognized that our Nation needs a safer transportation network that will provide more transportation choices. As a Member of the Congressional Motorcycle Safety Caucus I would like to highlight one such choice and point out that two-wheeled vehicles can be transportation options for many Americans.

The Motorcycle Industry Council's most recent information estimates that 27 million Americans operated a motorcycle in 2009. Much of this use was primarily recreational; however, more and more Americans are choosing to ride to work, school, or to run errands.

In his proclamation the President called for "... increased transportation options that cut commuting time, ease traffic congestion, reduce oil consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions. . . ." Motorcycles and scooters are options that can help to meet all of these goals. Motorcycles and scooters also have the advantages of being much cheaper than cars or trucks as well as considerably easier to park—and a lot of fun to ride.

I own a scooter myself and enjoying riding when I have the opportunity to do so. I have also noticed that a majority of riders are in their 40s, 50s, 60s, and even older.

Of course as more Americans choose two wheels we must be ever vigilant in promoting safe and responsible riding. I will take this opportunity once again to encourage all riders to ride responsibly by getting trained and licensed and obeying traffic laws. I would also like to remind all road users to be aware of motorcyclists, particularly as we move into the prime riding season in Tennessee and across the country.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES LOUIS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the educational community are exceptional. The University of California at Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their university, and community, a better place to learn, live and work. Charles Louis, Vice Chancellor for Research at UCR,

is one of these individuals. After eight years of dedicated service, Charles will be retiring from UCR.

Dr. Louis' biomedical research on the role of calcium as an intracellular signaling molecule, which has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for over 25 years, uses a range of different approaches including cell physiology, molecular biology, biochemistry, cell biology, and biophysics. His current research program focuses on the role of gap junctions in the development of cataracts in the lens of the eye because an elevation in cytosolic calcium concentration which closes these cell-to-cell channels is one of the critical early steps in the development of lens cataract formation. Dr. Louis is Chair of the Executive Committee of the Council of Research Policy and Graduate Education (CRPGE) of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) serving on the Board of Directors of APLU, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Council on Government Relations (COGR); he has served on many peer-review grant committees as well as the boards of biotech industry associations in both Minnesota and Georgia.

Dr. Louis served as Vice President for Research at Georgia State University from 2000–2004, having previously served on the faculty at the University of Minnesota for over 20 years where he held a number of administrative positions that included Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics from 1998–2000 and Assistant Vice President for Research and Associate Dean of the Graduate School from 1994–1998. He previously held faculty appointments at the University of Connecticut Health Center, and Leeds University in England.

Dr. Louis received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, his Doctorate of Philosophy in Biochemistry from Oxford University, and post-doctoral training at Stanford University.

Dr. Louis' many accomplishments at UCR have included the growth of sponsored funding last year to \$115 million, the establishment of a very successful Office of Technology Commercialization, and the management of the ever-increasing compliance demands that have been placed on universities by the federal government. He led the successful accreditation of UCR's human research protection program, and has worked on higher education committees of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and of the Council of Government Relations. We have benefited from his advocacy and strong voice for ensuring that UCR receive its fair share of research funding available from UCOP VP Research, and for his excellent working relationships with many UCR faculty that have included the establishment of a number of very successful collaborative research programs with Chinese research institutions.

In light of all Dr. Louis has done for the science community and education it is only fitting that we take a moment to thank him for his life's work. Dr. Louis' tireless passion for knowledge, science and education has contributed immensely to academia. Dr. Louis' contributions to his field will continue to resonate and I know that many individuals are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires and moves on toward the next phase in his life.